

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.,
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor
and his Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH;
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
PERFUMERS,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLY M.,
And
AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFTTED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm A. S. Watson and Co. or HONGKONG DISPENSARY. [58]

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 26TH, 1877.

SINCE writing on the Chinese question in Australia the other day we have come across a long and exhaustive article in the *Brussels Courier* of the 8th ult., by a colonist, under the signature of "Old Northerner," who has lived in North Queensland and studied the matter of Chinese immigration in all its bearings. He fearlessly exposes the fallacy of the arguments of the anti-Chinese agitators, and his remarks are eminently alike for sound sense and moderation. We have no hesitation, indeed, in saying that his article is the most sensible one that has to our knowledge appeared in the Queensland papers, and it must put the Chinese question in quite a new light before many of the colonists. He recognises the fact, on which we have always strongly insisted, that the immense resources of Northern Queensland can never be properly utilised without a supply of good and cheap labour, and that the only way to be successful in tropical agriculture is with Chinese under European supervision. He sees no reason why the north of the colony should not, with Chinese labour, become a flourishing sugar producing district. Even with Kanaka labour, which is much inferior to Chinese, the district round Mackay has been wonderfully transformed. When he first visited Mackay the town was a miserable little place, dependent for its existence upon a few cattle and sheep stations, and with about two hundred inhabitants. After a few years he returned to it and found a thriving town, magnificent estates, miles of canals, splendid machinery, and one of the most beautiful sports in Queensland. From a cattle run with long and rank grass and devilish plains, it was turned into a garden, and the greatest possible use made of God's gifts, and all through the importation and use of suitable labour. It is vain, "Old Northerner" considers, to think of developing Northern Queensland with European labour. It is both costly and inefficient; and the Europeans generally prove restless and discontented. The Europeans as a labourer is not suited for the climate. But is also another point. The heavy diet of the European in the tropics tends to make him more unsociable, whilst the light, wholesome diet and abativeness of the Chinese in the result of centuries of tropical experience.

There is much truth in this, and it would take long experience to teach British workmen how to live in the tropics. "Old Northerner" goes on to ask how it is that the Chinese cannot be employed in constructing roads, railways, and other public works. "We want," he says, "roads, bridges, railways, public buildings, wharves, and other things too numerous to particularise. We have millions of acres of splendid soil, equal to anything in the world for agriculture, now lying idle. We have copper, gold, and other metals. We have timber unequalled in Southern Queensland, and all lying idle for want of what?—Cheap and suitable labour. Let us have fifty thousand Chinese scattered north of Mackay on the coast lands as labourers and workers of the soil, and we shall have twenty thousand extra Europeans with them. The vast motive power now offering to turn our vast resources to account should be diverted into a right direction, and not forced away from us by uprise and un-called for legislation."

"Old Northerner" alleges that it is the politicians of the south who have been instrumental in raising the present outcry against the Chinese, and that in the north the only class still retaining a grudge against the Chinese is the miner, and he is now prepared to face the inevitable. In fact, as "Old Northerner" plainly proves, Cooktown and the North would suffer miserably by the withdrawal of the Chinese. Cooktown, next to Brisbane, is the chief port in Queensland, and the shipping business from the southern colonies has doubled since the advent of the Chinese. Not only do the storekeepers, draymen, packers, and teamsters profit largely by them, but the labourers on the wharves and all the Europeans gain more or less from their industry. Though they are rice eaters they are also in Queensland very good customers to the butcher, and cattle are double the price that they were in Flinders four years since, while more than double the number of Europeans are earning a comfortable living (many making large fortunes) than would have been the case had the Chinese not immigrated there. But this is not all. Out of the fifteen thousand Chinese resident in the district "Old Northerner" declares that not more than one in ten makes more than a bare living, and he therefore simply contributes to the revenue by contributing all he earns. Anyone studying the Customs returns at Cooktown will find that the average amount of gold taken by each passenger out of the colonies is not over ten ounces, for the principal returns of gold are for the principal imports.

The cause for the prosecution was that the bill off the arrival of the east wind Hongkong woman alleged to have been sold was the wife of four or five days. It wanted cleaning, and a few days after the trial the man who had often had to inquire from Mr. Mayenberg how

so frequently urged against the Chinese both in California and Queensland are stoutly denied by "Old Northerner." He quotes the testimony of a magistrate on this point as follows:—"For twenty years I have been a resident of Queensland, and seventeen years a magistrate, and have had men of various nationalities in my employ, and found European labour costly and useless, and the Chinese good. As a magistrate, I have had before me men of various nationalities charged with indecent assaults upon girls of tender age and unnatural crimes, but Chinese never. If, as is said, they are the corrupters of youth and the habitual perpetrators of nameless crimes, as is the fashion to lay to their charge, they certainly have respected the law in all parts of the colony, and the police records will, I think, show a smaller amount of crime in proportion to their number than amongst our Christian and educated moral Caucasians." The police force for the whole of the Palmer district, with population of 18,000, numbers but nineteen, and is, we are told, cheaper to the Government than any other in the colony with a fifth of the population. The Chinese are not without great and serious faults, and they of course furnish a quota to the criminal population both in California and Queensland, but they are certainly ruled with less difficulty than Europeans, and are more peacefully inclined when properly governed. The fact that some of them have

been driven by want to take up the profession of crookster is not so much to be wondered at. It is hard to have to starve in a land of plenty, and John Chinaman is only following the instinct of self-preservation in taking toll of other people's abundance. It is much to be regretted that the Queensland Government has not thought proper to make use of the Chinese to construct railways and roads, as we suggested two or three months back. A great deal has been made of the acknowledged dirtiness of the Chinese, and the way in which they set at defiance all sanitary laws, but "Old Northerner" coincides with the opinion more than once expressed in these columns, that the municipal bodies in all large towns have in their power to cope with this failing, and that strong measures should and could be taken to compel the Chinese to live decently. The Chinaman has not the same field in temperate climates, and could not successfully compete with the Caucasians there, but in tropical climates he is

sorely needed, and the fact will become yearly more and more apparent. We are glad that the people of the Northern Territory are alive to the importance of encouraging Chinese immigration, and trust that their neighbours in Queensland will soon see their mistake in wishing to be rid of useful John.

The British steamer *Flora Castle* left Singapor for this port on the 22nd morning.

We are informed by the agents (Messrs. Birley & Co.) that the steamship *City of Limerick* left Singapor for this port early on Wednesday morning.

We notice by the *Straits Times* that a Professor Thor, who also calls himself "the Royal Illusionist," is giving entertainments in Singapor, his tricks being similar to those of Mr. Kellar. He recently performed here. The Professor, however, wins up with a spirit scarce.

The *Singapore Journal* speaks highly of his performance.

A cricket match, the first of a series, of encounters which usually take place between the English and the Chinese, was held yesterday at two o'clock.

The Chinese players are a strong team, while that for the Club does not appear to be quite made up. The Club will have to find three or four "good men" to make up their string, otherwise it will be a "soft thing" for the Garrison.

The opening games of the Hongkong Yacht Club will take place to-morrow, and we understand that six vessels belonging to the Club will be at the Club houses on the occasion. The Commodore (Mr. W. H. Perkes), having lately purchased the *Nomad*, will hoist his flag on board that vessel on two o'clock sharp, and if the weather permits will renderous in Egmont Bay, off the Nauvoo Roads, Kowloon, at half past one o'clock p.m.

A dinner was given to Admiral Ryder on 24th instant by His Excellency Governor and Mrs. Pop. Head, when he was received with a salute of twenty-one guns. Sir John and Lady Smale, Cobham Barracks, O.B., Commanding Troops; Commodore Watson, H.N.; Hon. C. Smith and Mrs. Smith; Hon. Attorney-General and Mrs. Phillips; Hon. W. Kewell and Mrs. Keswick; Hon. J. M. Price; Hon. H. Lowcock and Mrs. Lowcock; Hon. C. May; Captain Collier, R.N., Colonel Doherty, 25th Regiment; Lt.-Col. O'Brien, R.H.A.; Mr. G. F. Moore, Q.C.; Mr. C. G. Lieutenant Graves, R.N.; Mr. G. H. Northcott, Acting Private Secretary and Captain Layard, Acting A.D.C. The band of the 23rd Regiment attended (by kind permission of Colonel Doherty and officers of the 23rd Regiment) during dinner.

An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at the Government Civil Hospital before Mr. Russell, coroner, and a jury comprising Messrs. P. A. da Costa, J. Beaton, and T. C. Dittmar, a brother of a Malay named Samsudin, aged 20 years, supposed to have met his death through the negligence of his employer.

The deceased had been admitted to the Hospital the previous night, and was then quite sober. That morning about six o'clock the amanuensis and nurse, who were the deceased's maid, took to bed.

When Mr. Russell enquired whether she had been sent to look at it, witness said that she had not.

He heard her say that she had been sent to look at it, and then asked her if she had been sent to look at it.

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EXTRACTS.

FAST AND PRESENT; OR, DETRACTION MADE EASY.

Here's to the past! 'Tis safe to praise
The ghosts of vanished glories—
To lend the lights of other days,
Old Whigs or ancient Tories;
To wane the suns of former times;
The blets of other seasons;
The sweetnes of forgotten rhyme,
The power of dead men's reason.
Dead dunces than ours were not more fat,
Nor buried horses stronger;
But then they share this virtue rare—
They step the way no longer.
It nothing costs to flog a reg'd
At glory's waning season,
And nothing really act
The Past against the Present.

But here's a still another plan:
Pod dove of the dolometer;
Take the day of some great man,
With statesman, artizan,
With a dolorous display
Of half-mindful sorrow,
Camps with his bright yesterday
And ominous to-morrow.
"Alas!" you sigh, with tear in eye,
That such a reputation
Should ruined so recklessly,
And court banishment;
And then you pull a solemn face,
And that's a bidding noddle,
At one who is time's disengage,
And was its pride and model.

To mourn the wit once wont to shine,
Now robbed of all its glitter;
The eloquence of old divines,
Now blunt, bald, and bitter;

That's the sig game by which a name
Is blotted from slander's haze,
Which once, you green, was voice by fame.

And themes of all men's prais.

There never was a present time
When present prays you granted;
But snowy robes show up your lime,
And contrast all that's wanted.
Detraction knows no better toll,
No trick more safe and pleasant,
Than brightening Glory's past to spell
The sombreld of its present.

Funch.

WHAT IS A GENTLEMAN?

The time was when there was not the smallest difficulty in answering the question. It asked, "Is he a gentleman?" you'd only to find out who was his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, what were his qualities, and, first of all, if he had any coat-of-arms at all. In other words, the inquiry confined itself strictly to the investigation

whether he was descended from people who wore chain-armour when chain-armour was still worn. Supposing him to be a born, he might be a scoundrel, a scoundrel, a person not fit for any one with a due sense of self-respect to consort with; but for all that, he was a gentleman. On the contrary, if he were an accomplished scholar, a man of great parts, of finished manners, of excellent address, of gentle heart, yet, if he were the son of a yeoman, or a burgher, he was not a gentleman. Put thus nakedly, but faithfully, the distinction may seem to some people to have been the most artificial, unjust, and monstrous conceivable. But, if we look at the matter more closely, and blinded by no modern prepossessions, we shall find, that, roughly speaking, the theory corresponded with the fact, and that while the descendants

of gentlemen were generally, and almost always, gentlemen, the sons of traders as yet, as a rule, had almost always, are not.

It may, perhaps, be objected that a Graham of the City of London was far more of a gentleman than a Squire Western; but, even if we grant this to have probably been the case, a notable exception on either side

does not vitiate the rule. The Grahams, unquestionably, were scarce, and we have only Fielding's implied word for it that the Squire Westerns were not.

We should like to see Squire Western, when sober, enter a room, leave it, narrate an anecdote, check an impertinence, and hold his own generally through the quietly intricate channels of social life. We suspect that he would have been found, that he was more acceptable to a company of gentlemen and scholars than any precise citizen of the same period.

The theory, therefore, we say, represented

the fact. Country gentlemen and their sons were gentlemen, according, at least, to the standard of those who desidero who were and were not gentlemen, while the reverse could be predicted of traders and traders' sons.

We have changed all that, no doubt. There are bankers and merchants who are as perfect specimens of gentleness as the

most strictly conventional sense of the word, as any-one may wish to say. But

this fortunate improvement and innovation has certainly made it much more difficult matter to decide who is, and is not, a gentleman.

There are some persons who would

only confute the test to birth, but that has gone irretrievably; and it is gone precisely because it has ceased to be a test that can be relied upon.

In reality, the test always was

of manner; but it so happened, that only

those persons had the manner who had some

thing else more definite and tangible. The test is still one of manner; but as it is now

out of favour only, and is no longer coupled

with a more material test, it is naturally

more shifting, and not quite so easy to satisfy.

We suspect, however, that the old qualifications will be found to hold good, with little or no change.

How does every trader tell

that an Arab is a gentleman, or that a Turk is a gentleman? Because both the Turk and the Arab manifest perfect self-possession, without

a touch of self-assertion, are truly amid riot, and composed amid difficulty and disturbance. These qualities seem to us to spring from habits of command, and from inherent sense of superiority, and the observation will apply with equal force to English gentlemen.

A gentleman is a gentleman, and there's an end o't. He does not want to be anybody else, because he does not recognise any superior, save of the titular or disciplinary sort. Your vulgar person, or even your person who, without being vulgar, is not a gentleman, is conscious of his inferiority, and periodically labours to conceal or cloud it. There is no concealing it, and the attempt only exposes the fact more glaringly to view. This sort of person, too, is not calm, nor self-possessed; he is hasty, solicitous, domineered by circumstances, instead of quietly settling down to a level with them. This by no means implies that a gentleman must not cope with circumstances when they are important enough to demand the exercise of his energies. But when he comes out of the battle, or the senate, or the hunting-field, no matter what he has gone through, he is composed and quiet once more. He never swagger; he never makes unnecessary apologies or explanations. He takes things as he finds them. Now and then, no doubt, the idiosyncrasies of genius will lend an exception to the manner of a gentleman; and, lady, lessington was as unaware of this that she expressed herself surprised that Bryon's manner in conversation was not as quiet as she expected from a person of his rank. The observation is on this stupid and foolish. There is no cut-and-dry reagent for a gentleman; but he is as unassimilable to those who know one, as the colour of a flower or the scent of a leaf.—Truly.

A DEVIL-DANCE IN INDIA.

It is an extremely difficult thing for a European to witness a devil-dance. As a rule, he must go disguised, and he must be able to speak the language like a native, before he is likely to be admitted without suspicion into the charmed circle of fascinated devotees, each eager to press near the possessed priest to ask him questions about the future while the devil-dance is in its full force upon him. Let me try to bring the whole scene vividly before the reader. Night, starry and beautiful, with broad, low moon seen through the palms. A still, solemn night, with few sounds to mar the silence, save the deep, muffled boom of breakers, bursting on the coast "full eight miles" distant. A lonely hut, a huge banyan-tree, grim and gloomy. All round spread interminable sands, the only vegetation on which is composed of lofty palmayans, and a few stunted thorn-trees and wild figs. In the midst of this wilderness lies, spectre-like, that aged, enormous tree, the banyan, haunted by a most hideous she-devil. Cholera is abroad in the land, and the natives know that it is she who has sent them the dreaded pestilence. The whole neighbourhood wakes to the determination that the malignant power must be propitiated in the most effectual manner. The appointed night arrives. Out of village and hamlet and hut come the wild crowd of men, women, and children. In vain the Brahmins tinkle their bells at the neighbouring temple; the people know what they want, and the deity which they must reverence is supreme just now. On flows the crowd to that gloomy island in the starless waste—that weird, hoary banyan. The circle is formed, the fire is lit, the offerings are ready—goats and fowls, and rice and pulse and sugar, and ghee and honey, and white chaplets of plumeria-blossoms and jasmine buds. The tomtoes are beaten more loudly and rapidly, the hum of rustic converse is stilled, and a deep hue of awe-struck expectancy holds the motley assemblage. The rickety door of the hut is quickly dashed open, and the devil-dancer

starts out. Between the hut and the eben shadow of the sacred banyan lies a strip

of friends, suffered to remain unburied for a number of days, and are decently interred in coffins of perishable material, such as those used by the London Necropolis Company, the ordinary processes of decay, so repugnant to the living, and so disgusting to the dead, are at once arrested. The earth speedily absorbs what is absolutely absorbable, while we "cast off this mortal coil," so that this innocuous resolution assures the place of destructive putrefaction.—Dust to Dust.

CAGES FOR CANARY BREEDING.

The cage we recommend is one with top, back, and sides of wood, the front only being wired, a business-like-looking article, not got up for show, but for work. It can be made in one, two, three, four, or any number of compartments; though we don't advise

the use of wire.

Assembled people show him the offerings they intend to present; but he appears wholly unconscious. He croaps an Indian lay in a low, dreamy voice, with drooped eyelids and head sunk on his breast. He sways slowly to and fro, from side to side. Look! See his fingers twitch nervously. His head begins to wag in a strange, uncanny fashion. His sides heave and quiver, and huge drops of perspiration exude from his skin. The tomtoes are beaten faster, the pipes and rattles wail out more loudly. There's a sudden yell, a ringing, stunning cry, an ear-splitting shriek, a hideous, abominable gobble-gobble of hellish laughter, and the devildancer has sprung so his feet, with eyes protruding, mouth foaming, chest heaving, muscles quivering, and outstretched arms swollen and stretching as if they were crucified. Now, ever and anon, quick, sharp words are uttered out of the saliva choked mouth, "I am God! I am the true God!" Then all around him, since he, and no idol, is regarded as the present deity, reeks the blood of sacrifice. The devotees crowd round to offer oblations and to solict answers to their questions. Sankos, vows, imprecations, prayers, and exclamations of thankful praise rise up, all blended together in one infernal hubub. Above all rises the ghastly guttural laugh of the devil-dancer, and his stentorian howls, "I am God! I am the only true God!" He cuts and hacks and hews himself, and not very unfrequently kills himself there and then. His answers to the queries put to him are generally incoherent. Sometimes he is sulently silent, and sometimes he is most banter, and shows his divine favour of health and prosperity all round him. Hours pass by. Suddenly the dancer gives a great bound in the air; when he descends he is motionless. The fiendish look has vanished from his eyes. His demoniacal laughter is still. He speaks to this and that neighbour quietly and reasonably. He lays aside his garb, washes his face at the nearest rivulet, and walks soberly home, a modest, well-conducted man.

FICIAL WORLD.

Ladies have a great field for the display of eccentricity in their mode of costume. We know of one lady who has never altered her dress since she was eighteen. The consequence is that every ten years or so the fashion seems round to her, and for a brief period she is à mode. Never having made any concessions to the abominations of crime or false hair, she is at the present time more orifice than she appeared five years ago. Every time has its eccentricities in this, as in this and Mr. Thibaut shows us a coquettish Miss Banks who died in 1818, and in plain terms looked a "regular guy." She was a lady of good position, being the sister of Sir Joseph Banks. Her costume consisted of a Persian quilted petticoat, which had a hole on each side, for the convenience of rummaging two immense pockets stuffed with bolts of all sizes, which did not add to the symmetry of her already-large proportions. In this she went about, followed by a footman carrying a cane, as tall as his mistress, or her luggage when accompanying her on a journey. She was the originator of the words "Higham," "Higham," and "Second," which are fond of applying in the order of precedence to their wearing apparel. These words Miss Banks invented in plain terms, looking a "regular guy." She was a lady of good position, being the sister of Sir Joseph Banks. Her costume consisted of a Persian quilted petticoat, which had a hole on each side, for the convenience of rummaging two immense pockets stuffed with bolts of all sizes, which did not add to the symmetry of her already-large proportions. In this she went about, followed by a footman carrying a cane, as tall as his mistress, or her luggage when accompanying her on a journey. She was the originator of the words "Higham," "Higham," and "Second," which she has had occasion to use during the last six years. She is similarly secured to the pecculating propensities of lodging-houses, inns, and tea-shops, at each meal a curious seat takes place in her room. Every article, such as her red-caddy, sugar-basin, jam-pot, etc., which she has had occasion to use during the meal is placed on the table, on which stands a gum-bottle, a brush, and several long strips of paper. She then proceeds to gum-up her property. A strip of paper is gummed round the opening to the tea-caddy; the pot of preserve is similarly secured, together with all else that is likely to attract the notice of the pecculating propensities of lodging-houses, inns, and tea-shops, at each meal a curious seat takes place in her room. Every article, such as her red-caddy, sugar-basin, jam-pot, etc., which she has had occasion to use during the meal is placed on the table, on which stands a gum-bottle, a brush, and several long strips of paper. She then proceeds to gum-up her property. 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